

MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

The September 8, 2022 meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was held at the Municipal Building and was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chair Paul Tarlowe, held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1976 and followed by a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Present were Paul Tarlowe, Robert Jewell, Glenn Todd, Kathleen Todd, Ann Bemis, James McMekin and Ruth Panté, Amanda Kilyk was excused.

MINUTES

It was MOVED by Ms. Bemis to accept and approve the minutes of the August 11, 2022 meeting, seconded by Mr. Todd. With no further discussion or corrections, all were in favor with the exception of Mr. Jewell and Mr. McMekin who abstained. The motion carried.

Morris Canal Greenway

Mr. Tarlowe, David Detrick of the Warren County Parks Foundation and Tim Roth of the NJ Canal Society recently visited the Port Murray Preserve, site of Inclined Plane 5W. Of interest at this site is the remains of the turbine chamber where a safety fence was recently installed. They did clearing at the base of the plane, exposing original canal retaining walls and sleeper stones upon which the plane's rails sat. Interpretive signs will be installed next year, and once the site becomes more visitor friendly, the Commission can work towards promoting its use by the public.

Salem Oak Seedling

Mr. Tarlowe visited the site and reported the signs he posted on the fencing remain in good condition. The seedling is looking good; Mr. Tarlowe pulled some invading weeds and trimmed around the fencing.

Bluebird Trail

Ms. Todd reported a visit to Cafferata Park and cleaned out several boxes.

Application for flood hazard permit / Popeyes on Rt. 57

The proposed site for a Popeyes restaurant is a pad next to the former Piggy's Deli at the Shoppes At Mansfield. No environmental issues were seen.

Mansfield School Recycling Program / Pollinator Garden

Ms. Todd spoke to a school secretary who suggested waiting a few weeks to get past the start of the school year. After suggesting hope for a pollinator garden at the school, the secretary said Superintendent approval would be necessary. Mr. Tarlowe stressed strict school approval for such a program; it must have teachers interested and involved in the project for it to be successful. Availability of water at the site is imperative.

Ms. Todd also spoke with Mayor Joseph Watters who suggested she develop a plan for a pollinator garden; also discussed was the Mt. Bethel Church as a possible site.

Land Use Board Report

Mr. Jewell noted a recent zone denial is being appealed. The site is at Mansfield Commons where Kessler Rehab wants to occupy a vacant rental unit, but the Zoning Officer denied because there was no handicap ramp and limited parking.

Proposed Blau Road Recycling Facility

Applicant Pio Costa appeared before the Warren County Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) on September 1, 2022, to give a slide presentation in support of its application for approval of the facility; the meeting brought forth an audience of about 75 Mansfield Township residents who oppose the construction of such a facility. Mr. Jewell has read the proposal and estimates the truck traffic at 5 trucks a day as opposed to the 50 to 150 projected in the proposal; he asked what might happen to the property if this project is not approved. The SWAC meeting went on to a question-and-answer period for the attendees. Ellen Nerbak, Chair, suggested the opponents present their side at the October 6 SWAC meeting, and all parties agreed.

Mr. Jewell said November 10, 2022 will be a Mansfield Township scrap metal and electronics recycling event.

Meadows at Mansfield

Ms. Bemis said construction at the site is on hold; a modular waste water treatment system is on order. Mr. Jewell explained such a system is under DEP jurisdiction because anything over 2,000 gallons gives DEP that authority. The site will have multiple tanks which will be monitored.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Mr. Tarlowe explained he will be out of state on October 13, the date of the next meeting, and he asked for a volunteer take charge in his absence. Ms. Todd may be able to assume that duty.

At 8:20 it was MOVED by Mr. McMekin to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Panté

**Next meeting date:
October 13, 2022**